AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract of the present application with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT

~~The invention provides a~~ A method and an apparatus for filling a vessel having an internal volume with particulate matter are disclosed. The method generally comprises the steps of providing a vessel having a length, width, and an internal volume, providing a supply of particulate matter, filling at least a portion of the internal volume of the vessel with the particulate matter, and repeating the aforementioned steps until the internal volume of the vessel has been filled with the desired amount of particulate matter. While the vessel is being filled with the particulate matter, the vessel also is subjected to a vibratory motion or at least one tamping motion, or the static electricity produced upon filling the vessel with the particulate matter is discharged. The apparatus generally comprises a carrier assembly, a container, and at least one of an actuating assembly, a vibrator assembly, and a static discharge assembly.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] The actuating assembly 84 can comprise any suitable device capable of reciprocally moving the vessel 32, here by moving the carrier assembly 42. For example, the actuating assembly 84 can comprise a pneumatic or hydraulic cylinder, which cylinder is coupled to the carrier assembly ~~84~~ 42 and a stationary construction, such as the frame 40. Preferably, as depicted in FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B, the actuating assembly 84 comprises a cam assembly 92, more preferably a two-dimensional spiral cam assembly, the carrier assembly 42 or a structure associated with the carrier assembly 42 acting as the cam follower. As utilized herein, the term "spiral cam assembly" refers to a cam assembly in which the body of the cam is provided in a substantially spiral shape (i.e., the distance between the axis of rotation and the surface of the cam confronting the cam follower increases as the cam is rotated). The cam assembly preferably is positioned such that the peripheral surface of the rotating cam 94, when rotated through one complete revolution, contacts the lower portion of the carrier assembly 42 during at least a portion of that revolution. More specifically, as depicted in FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B, the cam assembly 92 typically is positioned to contact the lowest distal end portion of the carrier assembly 42, although the cam assembly 92 can contact the carrier assembly 42 at any suitable point. For example, when the cam assembly 92 is positioned to contact the lower end of the carrier assembly 42, as shown, the cam assembly 92 can contact the carrier assembly 42 at the approximate middle of the width of the carrier assembly 42, or near the edge of the cam assembly. Preferably, the cam assembly comprises at least two such cams 94, each of which is positioned to contact the carrier assembly 42 near opposite edges of the carrier assembly 42.